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(2) Saudi Arabia

DENIED - Part 1, a1, a5

THE US ROLE IN SAUDI SECURITY

Within the framework of a fundamental political decision to work in close cooperation with the United States, Saudi leaders rely primarily on the US for foreign equipment, training and other services for their armed forces. Our security assistance programs in Saudi Arabia are thus part of a larger cooperative context of demonstrated Saudi preference for the American option, whether in the field of economic development or national defense. The Saudis moreover see their security relationship with us as an integral and vital element in the overall relationship.

The United States has a longstanding security assistance relationship with Saudi Arabia, dating back to the signing in 1951 of a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement. The early years of our security assistance relationship were characterized by relatively small shipments of unsophisticated equipment and limited training for Saudi military personnel.

The first of a series of major modernization programs began in 1965 as a joint US-UK effort. Reacting to a perceived threat from Egypt stemming from the North Yemen civil war, the Saudis sought to acquire a modern air defense system. The British contracted to provide most of the equipment and training, including the provision of Lightning interceptors and an advanced radar and communications system. The United States provided basic Hawk missile batteries through a Saudi commercial contract with Raytheon Corporation.

Subsequently our security relationship evolved and developed to the point where US military personnel or civilian contractors are now active in and indeed are the primary advisers for all elements of the Saudi defense establishment. A series of US surveys conducted in 1974 are the basis for the current force structure of the Saudi Armed Forces and for their current weapons procurement and facility construction programs.

Our current security assistance programs in Saudi Arabia fall under three major US military jurisdictions under the overall control of our Ambassador in Jidda. (1) The US Military Training Mission (USMTM) - Established in 1951 under the terms of the US-Saudi Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement, and commanded by a Brigadier General (soon to be a Major General), has overall responsibility for activities within Saudi Arabia, related to FMS transfers of defense articles and services to the Saudi Army, Navy, and Air Force and for implementing and monitoring FMS sales.

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(2) The Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program. Commanded by a Brigadier General, this project involves the modernization of four battalions of the Saudi National Guard.
(3) The Corps of Engineers. Commanded by a Brigadier General, the US Army Corps of Engineers Middle East Division provides engineering and management services for the construction of a wide range of facilities such as military cantonments, schools, hospitals, dependent family housing, headquarters buildings and ports. The Corps' activities in Saudi Arabia date back to 1951 with construction of the Dhahran military air field. In 1965 an Engineer Assistance Agreement was sign[illegible] between the US and Saudi Arabia, detailing the terms under w[illegible] construction assistance would be provided.

Under government-to-government or private auspices, the US currently has major programs in Saudi Arabia to provide and maintain F-5 and C-130 aircraft; to provide 25 ships, base construction, training and maintenance for the Saudi Navy; to assist in maintenance of the Saudi Army vehicle fleet; to mechanize two Saudi Army infantry brigades; and to provide an improved Hawk air defense system.

A number of US civilian contractors are working in the security assistance area in Saudi Arabia either through the FMS program or commercial sales agreements. Raytheon continues to manage the Hawk, and Lockheed the C-130 programs. Lockheed also maintains and provides training for an early warning radar system while Northrop acts as the prime contractor to the US Air Force in implementing the F-5 program. Whittaker Corportation provides operation and maintenance of three Saudi Army hospitals, and Litton is negotiating a contract to provide the AN/TSQ-73 "Missile Minder" air defense Command and Control system.

Future Prospects and Problems

Our wide-ranging security assistance program operates within an atmosphere of great Saudi confidence in the quality of our equipment, professional advice and services. The most serious problem is the continued lack of trained manpower available to the Saudi armed forces. The Saudis have also expressed their concern about serious cost escalations on many programs. Beyond that we have had and will probably continue to have a significant problem in meeting Congressional concerns about large military

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sales in general and sales to Saudi Arabia in particular. The Congress continues to view Saudi FMS as a massive transfer of weapons and weapons systems. In actuality, however, sales to Saudi Arabia through FY 1976 of weapons and ammunition represent only 20% of total sales to Saudi Arabia for that period. The balance of sales cover training and services (17%) and construction (63%).

Sidewinders and Mavericks

During the summer of 1976 a series of Congressional hearings were held to consider resolutions opposing the sale of Sidewinder air-to-air and Maverick air-to-ground missiles to Saudi Arabia. The Administration's original proposal to provide 2,000 and 1,500 of these weapons respectively was scaled down to 850 and 650 in efforts to accommodate vigorous Congressional opposition to the magnitude of the sale. In our presentation to the Congress we stressed both the political imperatives for being responsive to Saudi defense concerns and the fact that the number of weapons in the proposed sale was determined by a thorough US Air Force analysis of Saudi requirements. We informed the Saudis of our decision to reduce the number of missiles we were prepared to sell them at this time asking their understanding of the difficult political climate we faced in Congress. The previous administration assured the Saudis that every effort would be made to provide additional quantities of Sidewinders and Mavericks in the future. Further we made clear to the US Congress thatour decision to scale down our programs for Sidewinders and Mavericks at this time did not mean we would not propose additional sales in the future. It is probable therefore that the Saudis will ask to purchase additional Sidewinders and Mavericks in 1977.

Advanced Fighter Aircraft

In 1974 we agreed in principle to provide the Saudis with an advanced fighter aircraft to replace the aging British Lightnings whose useful flying life will end around 1980. We provided briefings in Saudi Arabia on the F-14, F-15, and F-16 fighters, and a Saudi Air Force team visited the US in April 1976 to acquire additional data on these aircraft. Saudi Minister of Defense Prince Sultan informed Ambassador Porter last month that the Saudis now wish to move forward in acquiring 50 F-15s. Sultan stated that the SAG wishes to begin acquiring these aircraft a

year and a half from now and has prepared a letter requesting them which it wishes to deliver to us between February 1 and February 15. We also know that the Saudis are in the process of extending their air defense service contract with Britain for an additional four year period (1978-1982). This means that the Saudis have insured the continued availability of an interceptor aircraft through 1982 but given the possible need for a 30-month lead time after the signing of a LOA for the delivery of the initial F-15s they are probably keen to begin ordering the new aircraft as soon as possible.

A list of pending notifications to Congress on FMS cases pursuant to Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act is attached. No decision have yet been made on the disposal of these cases.

Tab

Attachment:

As stated.

Cases pending in the Department of State for notification to Congress pursuant to Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

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Transmittal No.	Item/Service	Value (millions)
77-AG	220 family housing units	121.0
77-AQ	ammunition	80.0
77-AR	30 megawatt power plant	30.0
77-AW	15 M728 bulldozers	15.7
77-BL	I-Hawk rocket motors and warheads	—
77-BT	SNEP-design and contracting of 3 naval facilities	429.5

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THE US ROLE IN SAUDI SECURITY

NEA/ARP:JRCountryman:cej
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Clearance: DOD/ISA - Mr. Janka
T - Mr. Ledogar
PM/SAS - Mr. Kochanek
H - Mr. Flaten
NEA - Mr. Atherton

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Additional
Clearances: NEA - Mr. Sober SS
NEA/ARP - Mr. Twinam
NEA/RA - Mr. Cheek

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